

Christianity early marriages are accepted as a desirable accomplishment of providential intentions. whereas Protestant Christianity cannot actively encourage what it is ashamed to discuss. It certainly seems dangerous for the welfare of a community that its most successful classes should not subscribe effectually to the next generation. Delay in marrying is due very generally to a natural reluctance to lower the standard of comfort. and this feeling might be counteracted could social usages be so far altered as to render it incumbent upon grandparents to contribute liberally towards the up-bringing of their grandchildren. But the older generation cannot be expected cheerfully to accept the prospect of putting down a motor-car in order to educate children's children: they are the custodians of the canons of social morality. and in these individualistic days they will hardly be persuaded to modify them to their disadvantage for the sake of posterity.

There are, however, some consoling reflections.

It is by no means certain that the rich have anything more to transmit in begetting descendants than is possessed by the superior working classes. and these are increasing in numbers as rapidly as the very poor: their birth-rate is somewhat lower: but so also is their death-rate. Experience offers no ground for the belief that the culture of the leisured classes is transmissible to their

children by
inheritance. Would an Englishman.
kidnapped by
savages in infancy, show any traces of
civilized
polish in mind or in manners ? Are not
children
born to most scrupulous parents
endowed with
a propensity to lie and to steal ?
Talents. or
aptitudes. may certainly be passed on
by inheritance.
and the rich have often
acquired their
wealth by abilities which in the
interests of the
community might usefully be
transmitted to the